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CITY OF SALISBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1954

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,


I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health and details of Sanitary Work during the year 1954. The Report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector is also incorporated.

I am
Your obedient Servant,

E.M. WRIGHT

Medical Officer of Health

20th August, 1955.



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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	3,6
Number of inhabited houses and flats at end of 1954	9,5
Registrar General's estimated mid year Home Population for 1954	33,8
Rateable Value	£298,7
The sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,2

				Total	Male	Female	
BIRTHS.	Live - Legitimate	..	..	525	256	269	
	Illegitimate	..	..	31	16	15	
	All births	..	..	556	272	284	

Total Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	16.44
Area comparability factor	..	..	..	0.97
Adjusted Birth Rate	..	..	..	15.95

Birth Rates per 1,000 population (not adjusted):-

1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.75
1952	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.21
1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.42
1950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.13
1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.34
Average 1949 - 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.17

				Total	Male	Female	
BIRTHS.	Still - Legitimate	..	..	8	6	2	
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	All Births	8	6	2	

Total Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.24
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				Total	Male	Female	
DEATHS.				453	216	237	

Total Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.39
Area comparability factor	..	..	..	0.83
Adjusted Death Rate	..	..	..	11.11

Death Rates per 1,000 population (not adjusted):-

[illegible]

Infantile Mortality Rate - per 1,000 live births:-

Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age	17.99
Total Deaths (legitimate and illegitimate)	10
Deaths of Legitimate Infants	10
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants	-

Infantile Death Rate:-

[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY, 1954. (Corrected)

	Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes		216	237
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	2	--
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	19
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2
16.	Diabetes	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	45

Causes of Death (contd)							Males	Females
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	45	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease			..	..	..	3	2
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	30	49
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	9	11
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	11	7
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	9	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	5	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	16	37
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	-	-

The above figures only refer to deaths of residents in Salisbury and to those who died outside Salisbury but whose named residence is in the City. There were 582 deaths registered as occurring in Salisbury; 388 of these deaths occurred in institutions. There were 41 inward transfer deaths (i.e. those of residents of Salisbury who died outside the area), and 170 outward transfer deaths (i.e. those of non-residents who died in the City).

Deaths in institutions in the City were as follows:-

	Residents			Non-Residents
Salisbury Infirmary	63	163
Harnwood Hospital	-	1
Newbridge Hospital	56	-
Meyrick Close	29	-
The Old Manor	56	1
Nursing Homes	19	-
			<hr/> 223 <hr/>	<hr/> 165 <hr/>

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE OCCURRING IN THE CITY

Causes of death	Under 1 week	Between 1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 mths	3 mths and under 6 mths	6 mths and under 9 mths	9 mths and under 1 yr	Total
Asphyxia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hydrops Foetalis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4

INQUESTS

During the year 1954, 17 inquests were held on deaths which occurred in the City

Residents Non-Residents

1	6	deaths were due to road accidents
3	-	deaths were due to suicide
2	1	deaths were due to asphyxia
2	1	deaths were due to accidental falls
-	1	death was due to pneumonia following poisoning - suicide

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITY

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1954

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. E.M. Wright, T.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. H. Margaret Hammond, M.B., Ch.B. [¶]

SENIOR SANITARY AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTOR

Mr. S. Appleyard, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.I.

DEPUTY SENIOR SANITARY AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTOR

Mr. L. Weeks, C.S.I.B.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTORS

Mr. A.H. Kay, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.I.

Mr. H.H. Seddon, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
(appointed 27th July, 1954).

RODENT OPERATIVE

Mr. G.S. Rickard (resigned 23rd April, 1954)

Mr. T.E. Hazel (appointed 30th August, 1954)

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. J. Weeks

Miss J. Grant

The following Health Visitors employed by the Wiltshire County Council for duty in the City, are provided with office accommodation and clerical assistance in the Public Health Department:-

Miss P.E. Morris, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N., H.V.Cert.

Miss M.H. Norman, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Mrs. P.D. MacFarlane, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (resigned 6th March, 1954)

Miss I.D. Williams, R.G.N., R.S.C.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
(resigned April, 1954)

¶ Dr. Hammond acts only in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health, under Section 115, Local Government Act, 1933.

Miss M.M. Rahilly, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (resigned 1st April, 1954).

Miss E.C.N. Cross, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N., H.V.Cert. (appointed 12th July, 1954).

Mrs. A.H. Soilleux, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (appointed 26th July, 1954).

The Public Health Committee deals with all public health matters.

The following School Nurses are also employed by the Wiltshire County Council for duties in the Schools in the City; they carry out their work from the Minor Ailments Clinic, Salisbury General Infirmary:-

Mrs. B.A. Brown, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Mrs. N.M. Dalzell, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Salisbury General Infirmary, where examinations of specimens connected with infectious disease and examinations of water supplies, milk, ice-cream, food, etc. are regularly carried out.

WATER SUPPLIES

No restrictions were imposed during the year by reason of lack of water at source, but the plant was running very near to capacity. The supply is derived from two wells, and samples are taken for bacteriological examination before and after chlorination at both pumping stations each week, or more often if necessary. Non-faecal coliform organisms, usually small in number, were found on a few occasions in samples taken before chlorination from each of the wells, and in one sample taken before chlorination from each well, small numbers of faecal types of B. Coli were found.

Samples taken from both wells after chlorination were found to be free from evidence of pollution.

Number of houses and flats with piped internal water supply 9,516

Approximate population served with piped internal water supply. 33,661

The demolition of seven houses in Clearance Area No. 18 (Brown Street and Antelope Place) removed four standpipes, but there are 9 groups of houses served by one or more standpipes, and 24 houses are served by

individual standpipes, the population served being approximately 149. One house on the outskirts of the City has a shallow well with pumped water supply to a storage tank in the roof space.

Ten samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year from 8 private wells supplying dairies and other industrial premises in the City. Of these, 7 showed no evidence of pollution, 2 showed a slight or moderate degree of pollution and one a gross degree of pollution, with organisms of the coli-aerogenes group. The latter showed pollution with faecal types of B. coli, and this to only a very slight degree.

SALISBURY AREA PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE

General Infirmary

Report on the Analysis of Samples of Water received on 26th March, 1954

Devizes Road Pumping Station

Physical Characters Clear colourless water

<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Reaction Alkaline	pH 7.2
Saline and free Ammonia	0.002
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27°C.	0.013
Chlorides	1.8
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.5
Total Hardness	21.4
(a) Temporary	14.6
(b) Permanent	6.8
Poisonous Metals	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	Nil

OPINION:— Chemical analysis shows an excellent water of moderately hard character.

Wyndham Road Pumping Station

Physical characters Clear colourless water

<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Reaction Alkaline	pH 7.2
Saline and free Ammonia	0.001
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	Nil

ChemicalParts per 100,000

Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27°C	0.013
Chlorides	2.0
Nitrogen as nitrates	1.0
Total Hardness	21.0
(a) Temporary	14.2
(b) Permanent	6.8
Poisonous Metals	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	Nil

OPINION:- Chemical examination shows a moderately hard water of excellent quality.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATIONImmunisation against Diphtheria

Immunisation of children against diphtheria is carried out under arrangements made by the Wiltshire County Council, as Local Health Authority under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946. Immunisation is carried out at maternity and child welfare clinics, at school clinics and at primary and secondary schools, by Medical Officers of the County Council, and, in addition, general medical practitioners in the City immunise a large number of children under arrangements made privately with their parents

The following are the statistics for 1954:-

Age Group	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 - 9		10 - 14		Total under 15
Primary immunisations completed during 1954	200	201	22	12	12	63		19		529
Reinf. injections administered during 1954	-	-	-	-	12	283		142		437
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec.1954	27	297	309	342	343	485 ✕	1574 ‡	462 ✕	917 ‡	4756

✕ Not immunised since 31-12-49

‡ Immunised since 31-12-49

It is satisfactory for me to be able to point out, following my comments under this heading in my Report for 1953, that there has been a desirable improvement in the figure for immunisation for 1954 as regards children under 1 year of age. At the same time it is in my opinion disturbing that year after year this figure should fall short of the target set by the Ministry of Health.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

A large number of children in the City are immunised against whooping cough by general medical practitioners under arrangements made privately with their parents, but no statistics are available for this work.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Vaccination against smallpox is undertaken by general medical practitioners in the City under arrangements made privately.

The following are the statistics for 1954:-

Age Group	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over
Vaccinations	275	13	15	25	38
Re-vaccinations	-	-	9	36	88

Vaccination with B.C.G.

A certain number of children who have been exposed to a risk of infection with tuberculosis receive B.C.G. vaccination, under arrangements made by the Wiltshire County Council, at the Chest Clinic, Salisbury General Infirmary. The number of children living in Salisbury who received this treatment in 1954 was 34.

HOUSING

The work of the Public Health Department in connection with housing has not materially changed, and a large number of applications for Council houses were investigated during the year. The usual reason for such investigations was the presence of illness in the family concerned, due to

unhealthy accommodation, though a certain number of other causes of unsatisfactory conditions, such as overcrowding, were also enquired into, and appropriate recommendations made where necessary. As in previous years, high priority for re-housing was given to cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and there was the usual close collaboration between the Chest Physicians of the Salisbury and District Hospital Group and myself in this matter.

Probably no other single environmental circumstance is as important to sound mental and physical health as good housing. Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, slum clearance is to be accelerated and all unfit houses will be dealt with by closing or demolition as soon as possible. Such a programme will undoubtedly introduce fresh complications into an already complicated housing situation, especially as regards the re-housing of childless married couples, and elderly persons living by themselves, of whom there are undoubtedly a large number, (very frequently for economic reasons) in sub-standard accommodation. Indeed, the re-housing of such cases is likely to tax severely the ingenuity of all concerned in dealing with the problem of slum clearance in the next few years.

CHILD HEALTH

As a School Medical Officer of the Wiltshire County Council I examine large numbers of children attending schools in the City, and I also attend infant welfare centres for children from birth to school age. I am glad to say that in the very great majority of cases, there is evidence of an extremely high standard of child care in the City, the condition of the children examined being excellent as regards clothing, cleanliness, nutrition and physique. The number of children who have been found defective in any of these respects is extremely small for a town of the size of Salisbury.

Further evidence of the interest which Salisbury parents take in their children's welfare is shown by the high percentage of parents who attend at school medical inspections. This attendance is almost a hundred per cent. as regards children examined on admission to school at the age of 5 years, and is very high for subsequent age groups. Even for the school leavers, for whom, in my experience in other parts of the country, parents frequently do not consider it necessary to attend, I find that a large number of either fathers or mothers come with their children. In many cases, especially among the younger children, both parents attend.

There are, however, two features of child care in Salisbury which I feel should be considered as capable of further improvement. Many children seen at school medical inspections or even at infant welfare centres have a history of having had at some time or other one or more serious accidents, resulting in fractures or other injuries, which could have been avoided.

Some of these injuries are, of course, due to road accidents, and in other cases to falls, burns or scalds at home. The increasing mechanisation of life both at home and on the roads possibly makes some rise in the number of children who suffer serious forms of injury inevitable, but at the same time I feel that many parents do not make sufficient efforts to maintain a reasonable standard of satisfactory care in guarding their children against obvious dangers. Indeed, one of the more curious sights of contemporary Salisbury can be witnessed almost any fine day on some of the Council housing estates, where numbers of children of, or below, school age can usually be seen playing by the roadway unattended. Such a state of affairs is difficult to understand in view of the fact that the houses are provided with gardens, and there are open spaces available for children's recreation.

A further comment that might be made regarding child care concerns the late hours which many children are allowed to keep especially in the summer. This again may be difficult to prevent, but it is essential, if children are to remain healthy and to maintain a satisfactory rate of growth, that they should be allowed sufficient sleep. Faults in this connection are not of course confined to Salisbury and it is probably a nation-wide failing. Standards of sleep for children, especially young children, should nevertheless be maintained as strictly as possible.

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

These byelaws, which were approved by the City Council and came into operation in 1950, are enforced by visits of the Sanitary Inspectors to premises where food is prepared, stored or sold. No legal proceedings were taken during the year under these byelaws.

CLEAN FOOD COURSE

A Course of five illustrated lectures, including appropriate sound films, was given during February and March to persons engaged in food handling in the City. Sixty people enrolled including proprietors, managers, chefs and kitchen staff from hotels, restaurants and cafés, and staffs of several butchers' shops, provision shops and bakehouses.

A good attendance was maintained throughout the Course, and I feel that health propaganda of this kind is an effective adjunct to the routine inspections of food premises, and a good means of bringing home to those engaged in the food trades their responsibility to the public in the matter of the hygienic preparation, storage and handling of food stuffs. If the advice given at these lectures is followed, in my opinion the possibility of outbreaks of food poisoning due to faulty food handling at the types of premises I have mentioned would be very considerably reduced.

In addition, I have given several talks to women's organisations in the City, and in November Mr. Weeks, Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector, lectured at the Salisbury & South Wilts College of Further Education to a course of licensed victuallers drawn from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset.

MEAT INSPECTION

As a result of the extension of the City boundaries on the 1st April, 1954, meat inspection at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Stratford-sub-Castle, became the responsibility of the City Council as from that date. This slaughterhouse was closed at the end of April, and a new slaughterhouse which had been planned at Churchfields by the Ministries concerned, was opened on 3rd May, 1954. In consequence of this, and of the de-rationing of meat which occurred soon afterwards, a very heavy demand was made on the time of the Sanitary Inspectors for meat inspection, and it only with considerable difficulty that this work was carried out. Indeed, the throughput at the new slaughterhouse at Churchfields was for several months so large that practically the entire time of the Sanitary Inspectors was occupied with meat inspection and their normal duties had to be very considerably curtailed, in spite of the appointment of Mr. H.H. Seddon as Additional Sanitary Inspector on the 27th July, 1954. Further details of meat inspection carried out during the year are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, but I should like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the extremely conscientious manner in which the Sanitary Inspectors carried out this work, which involved very long hours of over-time, including the week-ends.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

No action was taken during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, or under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. In two cases, both elderly women regarding whom such action might have been advisable, it was possible to persuade the persons concerned to be removed voluntarily, in the first case to Meyrick Close, and in the second case to a Roman Catholic Voluntary Home.

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The greater part of the sewage from the City is dealt with at the Corporation sewage works, the effluent and storm overflow being discharged into the River Avon. These works are frequently overloaded, the main reason for this being that they were originally constructed to deal with a much smaller volume of sewage than that which now reaches them. They can only give full treatment without deterioration in effluent quality to

2.33 times the dry weather flow. Flows between 2.33 times and 4.05 times the dry weather flow are passed to the storm filter, and all flow in excess of the latter figure is screened and passed direct to the river.

Sewage which is not passed to the works is treated on a sewage farm at Bomerton, on the outskirts of the City. In all but the driest weather, this farm cannot easily accept the loading applied to it, and in spite of "contour ploughing" to spread the flow, short circuiting sometimes occurs. This leads to sewage running straight down the hillside to the roadside below, where it gives offence to local residents and passers-by.

In view of these facts, it is advisable that both the sewage works and the sewage farm should be replaced as soon as possible by larger modern works in a more suitable location.

Refuse collection is dealt with by freighter type vehicles, which deliver to controlled tips.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Homes are visited by the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Inspectors when necessary upon receipt of notification of infectious disease and enquiries made regarding contacts and the possible source of infection.

Bedding is removed for steam disinfection when considered necessary and disinfectant supplied to householders where infectious disease occurs, with instructions given for its use.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954.

Notified Cases	All ages	Under 1 year	1-5	6-15	16-25	26-45	46-65	66 and over	Age unknown	Treated in hospital
Scarlet Fever	10	-	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	170	15	118	32	-	3	-	-	2	2
Measles	5	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	13	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	-	13

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954 (continued)

Notified Cases	All ages	Under 1 year	1-5	6-15	16-25	26-45	46-65	66 and over	Age Un-known	Treated in Hospital
Dysentery	21	-	-	11	8	1	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	41	-	8	9	2	4	1	4	13	5
Typhoid Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2

The two cases of typhoid fever reported in this table occurred in Meyrick Close Welfare Home, and they were both notified on the 23rd June, 1954. They were women aged 55 years and 66 years respectively. Investigations failed to indicate the source of the infection, but there were reasons to believe that one of the cases had had an attack of typhoid fever many years previously.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

The following are details of outbreaks of food poisoning during 1954:-

- (a) Total number of outbreaks 1
- (b) Number of cases 41
- (c) Number of deaths 0
- (d) The outbreak was probably due to synthetic cream infected during preparation with salmonella typhi-murium

TUBERCULOSIS

Primary cases of Tuberculosis notified in the City during 1954.

Age Periods	Primary Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	1	-	-
2-5	-	3	-	-
6-15	-	3	-	1
16-25	2	5	-	2
26-35	3	2	-	1
36-45	3	2	-	-
46-55	2	-	1	1
56-65	4	-	-	1
66 and over	2	2	-	-
Totals	16	18	1	6

The total number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during 1954 was eight fewer than the corresponding figure for 1953. This reduction in the number of new cases notified may be at least partly due to the fact that the City was not visited during the year by a Mass Radiography Unit.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

During the year 1954, 1,399 inspections (compared with 2,587 last year) with 675 additional visits (including 235 preliminary housing surveys) were made for the investigation and suppression of nuisances, and inspections of the various types of premises in the City as follows:-

338	inspections	of dwellings
176	"	" drainage systems
76	"	" restaurant kitchens
66	"	" butchers' shops
57	"	" caravans
37	"	" dairies
26	"	" bakehouses
25	"	" factories
17	"	" ice-cream premises
16	"	" licensed premises

169 (compared with 282) complaints were received during the year. 54 preliminary notices and 9 statutory notices were served and 40 preliminary notices and 7 statutory notices were complied with.

4 further 221 visits were made in respect of unsound food.

The supervision of food-preparing premises was maintained so far as staff conditions would allow and details of work resulting from advice given will be found on page 20.

The greatly reduced numbers of inspections are, of course, accounted for by the time spent at the Stratford Slaughterhouse, consequent upon the extension of the City boundaries in April, and more particularly by the opening of the new Government abattoir in May, where two inspectors were fully occupied on meat inspection until the end of the year; this work is more fully reported on page 24.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act places a duty on the local authority to secure the inspection of premises registered or licensed by them, and to enforce the law with a view to securing the use of clean filling materials. "Registered" premises are those which use fillings in the upholstery of new furniture, bedding, toys, baby carriages and other articles; "licensed" premises are those where rag flock is manufactured or stored for delivery to registered premises.

The Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors are, by virtue of their appointments, "authorised officers."

All the materials used in the upholstery trade in the City come from sources where the British Standard Specifications are complied with and a certificate issued with the materials to this effect. These products are sampled regularly at the source, thus avoiding the necessity and expense of sampling within the City.

Shops Act, 1950.

The local sanitary authority, as part of their duties under the Public Health Acts, are responsible for the enforcement of the sections dealing with ventilation, reasonable temperatures and the provision of sanitary accommodation; 41 inspections were made for this purpose in the first three months of the year. During this period the Council considered a suggestion that in order to reduce extraneous police duties the responsibility for Shops Act inspections relating to other conditions (enumerated below) should pass from the Police to the sanitary inspectors and in April this suggestion was accepted by the City Council

The following, therefore, are the additional provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, enforced by the Council through the medium of their sanitary inspectors:-

- Lighting
- Washing facilities
- Facilities for taking meals
- Meal times
- Provision of seats for female assistants
- Weekly half holiday
- Late closing day
- General closing hours
- Sunday trading
- Sale of refreshments off the premises
- Delivery of goods
- Employment of young persons
- Special provisions re smokers' requisites, newspapers, and periodicals
- Special provision for sale of confectionery
- Shops where more than one trade or business is carried on
- Shops concerned with catering trade, motor vehicle spares, etc.
- Posting of notices and records re meal times etc. for young persons

During the last nine months of the year, 25 further inspections were made (the reduced number being due to meat inspection duties at the abattoir) and the following table indicates the various types of shops inspected.

Provisions and grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Licensed premises (also classed as shops)	..						6
Shoes	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Radio and electricity	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Furriers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Opticians	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hairdressers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Photography	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Multiple stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Drapers	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ladies' gowns	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Motor cycle spares	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lampshades	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Greengrocery	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Butcher	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Seedsman	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total number of Inspections							<u>66</u>

Offices.

As reported in previous years, it has not yet been found possible to commence inspecting and recording office conditions within the City.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Work completed during the year 1954

Housing.

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Roofs renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Rain-water pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dampness abated:-							
i. repairs to roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
ii. repairs to gutters or rain-water pipes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
iii. repairs to external walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
iv. waterproofing of internal walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wall plaster repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Ceiling plaster repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Rooms redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Housing (Contd).

19.

Sashcords provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Doors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Firegrates or ranges repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Firegrates or ranges renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sink waste-pipe repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Sanitary Conveniences.

New W.C.'s provided complete	..	..	..	..	..	2
W.C. compartments repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6
New W.C. basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	13
W.C. cisterns repaired	..	..	..	..	..	4
Flush pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dis-used W.C. sealed off	..	..	..	..	..	1
W.C. compartment rebuilt	..	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage.

Drains/sewers cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	34
Drains/sewers repaired or reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	5
Interceptor provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Inspection chamber provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fresh air inlets fixed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hopperheads and downpipes provided	..	..	..	..	..	2
Soakaway provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Groase gully provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
New hopperhead provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Overflowing cesspool	..	..	..	..	..	1

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wasps' nests destroyed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Swill bins provided	..	..	..	..	..	2
Piggery floor reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Liquid manure tanks provided at piggery	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smells (rats)	..	..	..	..	..	2
Smell (drains)	..	..	..	..	..	1

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	2
Bakehouse disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bakehouses redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	2
Washhand basin provided	..	..	..	..	..	1

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Intervening ventilated space provided	..	..	..	1
Ventilation improved	..	..	..	3

Shops Act

Ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	7
W.C. provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Extra heating provided	..	..	..	..	..	3

Moveable Dwellings

Adequate ventilation provided	..	..	..	..	5
Floor repaired	..	..	..	..	1

Food-preparing premises, shops, stalls, etc.

Rooms cleansed or redecorated	..	..	..	..	16
Premises cleansed or limewashed	..	..	..	..	1
Structural repairs carried out	..	..	..	..	4
Handwashing notices provided	..	..	..	..	3
Handbasins with constant hot and cold water provided	..	..	..	..	3
Drying cloths provided	..	..	..	..	1
Sealed gullies provided in food rooms	..	..	..	..	1
Circulating hot water systems provided	..	..	..	..	2
Refrigerator repainted internally	..	..	..	..	1
Double sinks provided for washing up	..	..	..	..	2
New single sink provided	..	..	..	..	1
Vegetable sink provided	..	..	..	..	1
Lighting in food rooms improved	..	..	..	..	1
Refuse bins provided	..	..	..	..	2
Clean hand towels provided	..	..	..	..	1
Adequate ventilation provided	..	..	..	..	1
Hot water provided	..	..	..	..	1
Washhand basin provided	..	..	..	..	1
Glassfronted counter provided	..	..	..	..	1

One fishmonger's premises was completely modernised and now complies with the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. The firm and their architects readily accepted the recommendations of the Sanitary Inspector concerned in the interests of hygienic construction and food handling.

The work included providing new tiled wall surfaces, replastering and redecorating; providing new tiled floors and floor drainage to the basement by means of an automatic electric pump; improving the lighting of food rooms; providing new tables, slabs, etc; providing separate sanitary accommodation; providing sinks and hand basins with hot and cold water supply; providing satisfactory ventilation to the basement.

A provision shop in the City was completely refitted with tiled walls and non-slip tiled floor. The counter is glass-protected in the interests of hygiene and a rail is provided for customers' shopping bags. Fluorescent lighting was provided and shop heating is by means of electrical tubular heaters. An up-to-date "gravity-feed" meat slicing machine was installed which eliminates handling the sliced meat. It is understood that the firm intend at a future date to instal a refrigerated window.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

Offensive Trades

There is only one such trade carried on within the City, viz: a marine store. The premises are regularly inspected and are generally kept clean, tidy, and free from vermin.

Tents and Vans

57 inspections of the 120 caravans within the City were made and on each occasion conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. 22 new caravan licences and 12 renewals of existing licences were granted during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

Slum Clearance

The following properties were demolished during the year:-

Clearance Area No. 18 (Brown Street and Antelope Place): comprising 7 houses, and one added by agreement, from which 10 persons were re-housed;

Nos. 2/4, 6, 8, 10 St. Martin's Church Street: 4 individual unfit houses which had been previously vacated.

Two individual unfit houses were formally closed and 3 others informally by accepting undertakings not to re-let, 9 persons being re-housed by the City Council.

* A Closing Order was also made in respect of 2 underground rooms

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

A. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	338
Number of visits made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	412

* One application under the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, for a Certificate of Disrepair was granted in December,

B. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head A above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. .. .	7
(1) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	152
(2) Number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	.. .. .	40
(3) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:-		
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works -		
Housing Act, 1936	.. .. .	Nil
Public Health Act, 1936	.. .. .	9
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	.. .. .	5
(4) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works -		
Section 92, Public Health Act, 1936	.. .. .	9
Housing Act. 1936	.. .. .	Nil
(5) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -		
Public Health Act, 1936	.. .. .	7
Housing Act, 1936	.. .. .	Nil
(6) Number of demolition or closing orders made	.. .. .	3
(7) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, (i.e. undertaking given not to re-let)	.. .. .	2
(8) Number of houses demolished	.. .. .	12
<u>Number of new houses and flats erected during the year:-</u>		
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) :-		
(i) by the Local Authority	.. .. .	48
(ii) by other Local Authorities	.. .. .	Nil
(iii) by other bodies or persons (including existing houses converted into flats)	.. .. .	85

(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts:-

(1) by the Local Authority

(a) for the purpose of Part II of the Act, 1925	Nil
(b) for the purpose of Part III of the Act, 1925	Nil
(c) the number of houses and flats in course of construction under the Housing Act, 1946, on the 31st December, 1954. 	44

Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority:-

(1) Parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1925	.. .. .	Nil
(2) Other Powers .. .. .	.. .. .	Nil
Housing Act, 1919	.. .. .	210
" " 1923	.. .. .	304
" " 1924	.. .. .	110
" " 1925	.. .. .	Nil
" " 1930	.. .. .	112
" " 1936	.. .. .	14
" " 1938	.. .. .	12
" " 1946	.. .. .	1,054
Temporary Bungalows, Housing Act, 1944	.. .. .	99
Total	.. .. .	<u>1,915</u>

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. - Overcrowding

Number of new cases of overcrowding discovered during the year 	2
Number of inspections 	5

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 83 - 85

Number of inspections in connection with verminous premises 	18
Number of additional visits entailed 	1
Number of new cases 	3
Number of verminous rooms sprayed 	5
Number of verminous rooms gassed 	-

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The rat catcher appointed on the 17th March, 1952, resigned in April, 1954, and we were without a successor until the 30th August. However, he quickly adjusted himself to the work with the assistance of the district inspectors and in early 1955 took a three-day course in modern methods of rodent control. During the year a total of 1,477 inspections (involving 1,585 visits and 773 treatments) of the following varied types of premises were made:- dwellings, business premises, Institutions, garden sheds and poultry runs, pig-sties, the sewage works and refuse tips, and a twice yearly treatment of the City's sewers. 67 complaints were received and 126 new cases recorded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

Meat Inspection

Work commenced at the new abattoir on May 3rd; all the licensed slaughtermen were previously experienced and new unlicensed entrants are put on probation for several months training before a licence is recommended.

It is unfortunate that the amendments to the plans suggested by the Local Authority Officers were not accepted, as experience of the working of the abattoir has produced great difficulty in dealing with the throughput demanded.

At this time, (May - June), of course, meat, although still rationed, was in the process of de-control and due to the subsidy paid enormous numbers of animals, especially sheep, were being sent in for slaughter. The regular slaughtering hours are 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. but over Whitsun work began at 5-30 a.m. and on one day, working for 14 hours, over 500 sheep were killed and examined.

A 12-hour working day quickly became the rule and continued until the end of the year, whilst for many months also slaughtering took place on Sundays from 7 a.m. - 12-noon. This meant that the staff of three inspectors had to work a rota and normal duties nearly came to a standstill as two inspectors were almost continually employed at the abattoir. At the end of July another inspector was appointed but this assistance was practically nullified by one of the original staff being obliged on medical grounds to discontinue certain aspects of meat inspection.

Carcases and offal are rejected when any one of 34 specified diseases or conditions are found and it will be of interest to know that myxomatosis in rabbits and hares has recently been added to the list.

Parts of carcasses and either whole offals or parts are rejected when other conditions are present in localised areas only.

Whenever a number of animals from the same farm are found to be affected with tuberculosis the facts are reported to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with a view to the investigation of conditions at the farm, thereby helping to check the spread of the disease.

The following tables show the number and weight of carcasses and parts rejected, the location of the disease or other condition and the percentage of animals affected in some degree. The "other conditions" referred to include parasites and the following which are not communicable to man but render the meat or offal unfit for consumption:- Pleurisy, pneumonia, adhesions, peritonitis, cirrhosis, abscesses, pericarditis, tumours, arthritis, congestion, jaundice, nephritis, etc.

<u>Whole carcasses rejected</u>		<u>Part carcasses rejected</u>	
Tuberculosis	Other Conditions	Tuberculosis	Other Conditions
37	145	801	8,709

NUMBER AND WEIGHT OF ORGANS AND WEIGHT OF CARCASS MEAT REJECTED

STRATFORD (3.4.54 - 30.4.54)

	Heads	T/g	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Part Livers	Mesen- teries	Intes- tines	Sto- machs	Omen- tum	Dia- phragm	Spleens	Udders	Stiff Feet	T ² / g	Kidneys	Weight lbs.
CATTLE	9	9	29	6	40	19	16	11	9	6	6	5	41	5	4	15	4,078
CALVES	5	5	8	7	7	-	5	5	5	5	5	5	-	5	5	10	271
SHEEP	3	3	57	29	33	-	15	16	16	10	2	4	3	3	2	5	383
PIGS	29	29	246	53	54	-	45	46	46	38	4	3	7	2	2	9	1,497

CHURCHFIELD (7.5.54 - 31.12.54)

	Heads	T/g	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Part Livers	Mesen- teries	Intes- tines	Sto- machs	Omen- tum	Dia- phragm	Spleens	Udders	Stiff Feet	T ² / g	Kidneys	Weight lbs.
CATTLE	380	378	496	89	1,420	678	285	184	91	71	67	75	79	28	21	165	77,181
CALVES	23	23	117	25	22	1	20	20	20	20	20	22	5	18	11	32	1,348
SHEEP	44	44	1,920	198	1,753	40	41	40	39	39	60	124	24	30	13	73	6,851
PIGS	339	330	2,612	391	662	15	226	336	333	194	118	162	32	77	73	153	18,458

Table showing the percentage of animals affected with Tuberculosis and with other conditions compared with the numbers slaughtered.

	Cattle (ex. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. of Animals slaughtered	4,309	1,625	2,856	21,363	11,629
<u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses affected	9(0.21%)	14(0.86%)	3(0.1%)	-	11(0.09%)
Part carcasses affected	257(5.96%)	221(13.6%)	-	-	323(2.77%)
<u>Other Conditions</u>					
Whole carcasses affected	4(0.09%)	13(0.80%)	25(0.88%)	44(0.20%)	59(0.50%)
Part carcasses affected	1,422(33%)	669(41.2%)	140(4.9%)	3,315(15.5%)	3,163(27.2%)

This table shows the incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* or "beef measles", a parasite found in beef which has become more common since the war and for which detailed examination of all beef carcasses is made. This parasite is communicable to man but destroyed by freezing at 20°F. for 21 days and all carcasses affected are transferred to the local cold store for this minimum period.

Type of Animal	Site of Infection				Totals
	Head	Head & Heart	Heart only	Diaphragm	
Steer	38	5	13	1	57
Hoifer	11	-	3	-	14
Cow	7	-	2	-	9
Total	56	5	18	1	80

Of those 80 carcasses, eleven were sent to cold stores outside the City, and the remaining 69 were admitted to the local privately controlled cold store.

Food Premises

There were 28 Butchers' Shops, 15 Bakehouses, 8 Fried Fish Shops, 6 Wet Fish Shops, 64 Restaurant Kitchens (23 of these also being licensed premises), one bacon and one fish curing establishment, 2 Ice Cream Manufacturers and 119 dealers on the register at the end of the year, showing an increase of 6 dealers.

40 ice cream samples were submitted for bacteriological examination compared with 246 last year, and 24 (60%) compared with 205 (83.33%) in 1953 satisfied the provisional recommendations of the Ministry of Health, which suggests, briefly, that over a six monthly period not less than 80% of the samples taken should fall into Grade I or II and these are the grades quoted in the percentages above.

A total of 333 (compared with 606 in 1953) inspections of these and other food premises were made during the year, the following table showing the variety of food shops visited in the City:-

<u>Type of Food Stores</u>								<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Wet fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Ice-cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sugar Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cooked Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Circus sanitary accommodation and tea bars	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Whole sale Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sausage making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Meat Depot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fish Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Egg Packing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poultry and Game	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Details of the amount of food examined and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption are as follows, all condemned food being buried under supervision at the Corporation's tip:-

3,185 tins fish, fruit, milk and vegetables
 3,036 lbs. fresh meat (from butchers, in addition to
 the abattoir rejections)
 1,560 lbs. 9 ozs. tinned meat
 394 lbs. pears
 313 bottles sauce
 94 rabbits
 66 eggs
 60 lbs. cherries
 44 lbs. 6 ozs. cheese
 33 st. 7 lbs. fish
 31 lbs. cake flour
 30 lbs. various frozen foods
 29 lbs. 8 ozs. sausages
 27 lbs. imported frozen rabbit
 23 lbs. kidney fat
 15 lbs. 12 ozs. semolina
 11 jars horseradish
 9 lbs. grapes
 8 packets cereals
 7 lbs. cake
 7 lbs. butter

6 boxes Apricots
 3 lbs. 10 ozs. mincemeat
 2 lbs. 8 ozs. piccalilli
 2 lbs. 4 ozs. tomatoes
 2 lbs. 4 ozs. pastry mixture
 1 lb. 8 ozs. figs
 1 lb. 8 ozs. creamola
 1 lb. 4 ozs. mayonaise
 1 lb. 4 ozs. Instant Postum
 1 lb. 4 ozs. mixed pickles
 1 lb. pork liver spread
 1 lb. Sunny Spread
 1 lb. lemon curd
 1 turkey
 1 jar paste
 13 ozs. salad cream
 11 fluid ozs. morfat whipping
 9 ozs. dates
 6 ozs. cockles
 1 oz. Bovril
 1 oz. potted salmon

The following complaints of unsound food being sold, offered for sale or deposited with a view to sale were reported to the Public Health Committee and column 4 indicates the action taken:-

Article (1)	How discovered or reported (2)	Nature of Complaint or other irregularity (3)	Action Authorised (4)
Loaf of Bread	Complaint after sale	Sale of bread con- taining mice dirt	Warning given that in future proceed- ings would be considered
Loaf of Bread	Complaint after sale	Sale of bread con- taining a piece of string	ditto

The Market Place

Inspections of the Market Stalls are made with a view to observing the sale of unsound food and also compliance with the Meat Regulations and Food Handling Byelaws as to proper covering of stalls etc.

Inspection of Dairies and Milk Sampling

37 inspections and 9 additional visits were made to the 6 dairies and samples were also obtained from the 10 distributors supplying milk within the City.

5 "Tuberculin Tested" and 15 "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" licences were issued. The four pasteurising plants were inspected and samples taken, results being shown below. One pasteurising plant ceased to operate in October as a result of regulations prohibiting the bottling of such milk otherwise than at the processing premises and the firm concerned was unable to comply with this requirement. All milk sold in the City is, however, with the exception of one producer/retailer, either "Tuberculin Tested" or "Pasteurised" and this firm was in process of upgrading at the end of the year. .

Milk Sampling

2 samples of undesignated milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist and both were found to be unsatisfactory with regard to cleanliness.

6 samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk were also submitted and 4 (66.67%) of these proved satisfactory.

28 (compared with 89 taken in 1953) samples of "Pasteurised" milk were submitted and all satisfied the requirements of the Regulations.

17 (compared with 43 in 1953) samples of milk taken from the 16 retailers supplying the City were submitted to the Tuberculin (Biological Test) and all proved to be free from tuberculosis.

Bottle Washings

15 (compared with 41 in 1953) washed milk bottles were subjected to bacteriological examination for cleanliness and 13 (86.67%) satisfied the required standard.

BIOLOGICAL MILK SAMPLES

The following table shows the results of samples submitted for the presence of tuberculosis during the past ten years:-

			<u>Samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>% Satisfactory</u>
1945	..	..	76	74	97%
1946	..	..	44	42	95%
1947	..	..	29	29	100%
1948	..	..	66	64	96.9%
1949	..	..	53	55	94.8%
1950	..	..	58	55	94.8%
1951	..	..	41	41	100%
1952	..	..	72	71	98.6%
1953	..	..	43	43	100%
1954	..	..	17	17	100%

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

1(a) Factories

Premises	Number on Register	Number of:-		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by L.A. (non-power)	44	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (power)	159	14	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	41	--	-	-
Totals	244	18	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	1	-	-	-

(b) Outworkers

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making wearing apparel	14	13	-	-	-	-

2. Workplaces

Type of Workplace	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices served	No. of Notices complied with
Lithographers	2	-	-
Dry Cleaners	1	-	1 (Served in 1953)
Nurseries	1	-	-

